

RA 2325 - Air Weapons Carriage, Training and Demonstrations

Rationale

United Kingdom military-registered Aircraft may be required to carry weapons during training and operational flying. The carriage of Air Weapons can increase Risk to Life (RtL) for Aircrew, ground personnel and third parties. This Regulatory Article (RA) puts in place measures and procedures to mitigate this increase in RtL.

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Definitions

Definitions Relevant to this RA

1. **Air Weapons.** For the purposes of this RA, Air Weapons are considered to include both live and inert variants of Air Launched Weapons (ALW)¹, captive carriage weapons (where the weapon is secured to the Aircraft and unable to be released or jettisoned), guns, ammunition, Pyrotechnics and countermeasures containing ordnance, munitions and explosives when installed on the Aircraft (not carried as Cargo).

Regulation 2325(1)

Carriage of Air Weapons and Towed Targets

2325(1) Air Weapons and towed targets **shall** be carried in accordance with (iaw) the Release To Service (RTS) or, for non-RTS flying operations, the Military Permit to Fly.

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Carriage of Air Weapons and Towed Targets

2. The operation, handling and Maintenance of Air Weapons **should** be iaw Approved Data and procedures.
3. Aviation Duty Holders (ADH) or Accountable Managers (Military Flying) (AM(MF)) **should** publish orders laying down the Safety precautions to be observed and procedures to be followed when Air Weapons ►or◄ towed targets are carried on, released, or jettisoned from, Aircraft.
4. ADH and AM(MF) **should** ensure that warning notices detailing the dangers posed and precautions to be taken, are displayed at access points to any area where Aircraft carrying weapons may be operating on the ground. Additionally, local by-laws and other civil Regulations that impose further restrictions **should** be adhered to.

Performance Failure of Air Weapons

5. After the performance failure of an Air Weapon which, ►for the purpose of this Regulation,◄ includes Inadvertent Release of a towed target, the Aircraft Commander **should** ensure that:
 - a. The positions of all relevant switches / mechanisms are noted and then set to 'safe'.
 - b. All necessary actions are taken to minimize the Risk of further Hazard.
►◄
 - c. The Incident is reported to the ground control with which the Air System is in communication, giving the location of the weapon / target and any other relevant information.
 - d. Air Traffic Control at the destination is informed of the Incident so that the appropriate personnel may meet the Aircraft on landing.

¹ ALW are defined in the MAA02: MAA Master Glossary; ALW are a subset of Air Weapons.

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- e. A full investigation of the Incident, iaw DSA 03 OME Part 2², is made after landing.

► Considerations on Failure to Release or Launch ◀

6. When a ► **failure to release or launch** ◀ occurs, the Aircraft Commander **should** keep the weapon pointed into a safe area for the time required to allow for a late discharge. Thereafter, the Aircraft **should** be recovered to a suitable location appropriately able to deal with the ► **failure**. ◀ The weapon **should** be assumed to be dangerous until rendered safe by appropriate armament personnel.

After-Flight Safety Precautions

7. At the end of every flight, the Aircraft Commander **should** ensure that they have returned the Aircraft to the ► **Finally** ◀ Armed state iaw the Air System Document Set or that no Explosive Armament Stores are fitted.

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Performance Failure of Air Weapons

8. The term 'performance failure' as stated in DSA 03 OME Part 2² includes:
- Failure to Release or Launch.** A failure to release (ie 'hang-up') or launch (ie 'misfire') occurs when any Air Weapon or equipment is retained by an Aircraft after the normal or emergency release sequence has been completed.
 - Irregular Release.** An irregular release occurs when any Air Weapon or equipment is released, launched or fired from an Aircraft in a different manner than that selected by the Aircrew. This includes premature or delayed releases / launches.
 - Failure to Function.** A failure to function occurs when any Air Weapon or equipment, after successful release / launch from an Aircraft, fails to operate iaw the Aircrew pre-release selections (eg non detonation).
 - Irregular Functioning.** Irregular functioning occurs when any Air Weapon or equipment is released, launched or fired correctly, but operates in a manner different to that selected or programmed during preparation or Loading. Such Occurrences would include premature detonation of a bomb or missile warhead.
9. **Inadvertent Release.** An Inadvertent Release occurs when the Air System stores management system operates as selected, but not as intended (eg stores released by mistake, at the wrong instant, or as a result of incorrect switch selection).
10. Irrespective of whether a report is required by DSA 03 OME Part 2², a DASOR iaw RA 1410³ may still be appropriate.
11. Where appropriate processes exist, the Aircraft Commander may delegate responsibility for the replacement of Safety pins to external stores to appropriately qualified ground crew / engineers.

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Air Weapons Training and Demonstrations

- 2325(2) Air Weapons training and demonstrations **shall** only be conducted within approved areas ► **or at sea**. ◀

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Air Weapons Training and Demonstrations

12. All Air Weapons training and demonstrations **should** be conducted iaw the published orders for the area to be used.
13. Outside ► **an approved** ◀ area ► ◀, Air Weapons training and demonstrations **should** only be conducted at sea, iaw BRd 1043⁴ ► **or Air Command Air Weapons**

² Refer to DSA 03 OME Part 2 (Formerly JSP 482), available on the gov.uk website.

³ Refer to RA 1410 – Occurrence Reporting and Management.

⁴ Refer to BRd 1043 - Gunnery and Guided Weapon Practices User Instructions.

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and Electronic Warfare Range Orders (ACAWEWROs)⁵, using clear range procedures⁶. ◀

14. The marking of ▶ targets and other areas for live Air Weapon ◀ demonstrations **should** be iaw NATO Standardization Agreement (STANAG) 3564⁷ ▶ to aid positive target identification from the air. ◀

15. Live Air Weapons demonstrations **should** be carried out iaw STANAG 3564⁷.

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16. ▶ Nil. ◀

⁵ ▶ Refer to ACAWEWROs, Section 5 - Air to Air & Air to Sea.

⁶ Refer to DSA 03.OME Part 3 (JSP 403) - Defence Code of Practice and Guidance Notes for Ranges. ◀

⁷ Refer to [STANAG 3564](#) Rules for Live Air Weapons Demonstrations.

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